



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 12, No. 1

343 King's Highway East

February, 1969

CANDLELIGHT DINNER TO FEATURE ILLUSTRATED TALK BY CURATOR OF YORK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Last October, several members of the Society, including program chairman Mrs. William E. Moody, attended the Fourth Annual Pennsbury Manor Americana Forum, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in conjunction with the Pennsbury Society. By far one of the most impressive and stimulating talks given there was one by Charles B. Simmons, Curator of the Historical Society of York County. All agreed Mr. Simmons would be an outstanding speaker at our Candlelight Dinner on February 25. Despite a very heavy speaking schedule, Mr. Simmons yielded to the persuasiveness of Mrs. Moody and agreed to bring his talk and his excellent colored slides to our annual event.

The lively title of his talk is "The Historical Society, Tomb or Womb?"

Mr. Simmons proves, with well-documented data and pictures, that the Historical Society can take an active, leading role in the preservation movement for the aesthetic and economic benefit of the entire town.

Our antiquarian and historian members need not be told that York, Pennsylvania is one of the great historic areas in the country. Its origins go back

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

DATE: Tuesday, February 25

TIME: 6:15 P. M.

PLACE: Tavistock Country Club

RESERVATIONS:

Mail check (\$5.25 per person), payable to Historical Society of Haddonfield, to Mrs. Wm. E. Moody, 841 Edge Park Drive, Haddonfield. Phone: 428-2730.

Reservations must be received no later than February 22. Tickets will not be issued. Reservations will be held for you.

to 1741 when "Yorktown"—Marorial town, was surveyed by Thomas Cookson by order of the Proprietors. The Borough was incorporated September 24, 1787. York County, the first county west of the Susquehanna River was erected August 19, 1749.

York was the seat of the Continental Congress from September 30, 1777 to June 27, 1778. The first National Proclamation of Thanksgiving adopted in York by the Continental Congress, November 1, 1777, recommended "that

(Continued on page three)

FEBRUARY HISTORICAL NOTES: TWO MOMENTOUS HAPPENINGS FOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN TRENTON AND PHILADELPHIA

In May, 1961, this Bulletin reported that New Jersey Attorney General David D. Furman would address the Society at that month's regular meeting on "New Jersey and the Civil War." To prepare the ground for our illustrious speaker the Bulletin published excerpts of the remarks delivered by Dr. Roy P. Barler, chief of the reference department of the Library of Congress, before the re-enactment of the Joint Session of the New Jersey Legislature, February 21, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's historic visit to the State House in Trenton on his way to Washington for his inauguration 12 days later.

Dr. Barler in Trenton summed up the import of Abraham Lincoln's address with Lincoln's now-famous words: "I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his own condition, but to assist in ameliorating mankind; and therefore, without entering upon the details of the question, I will simply say, that I am for those means which will give the greatest good to the greatest number."

New Jersey was not the only stop on Lincoln's itinerary on his way to Washington from his home in Springfield, Illinois. He received numerous invitations to visit other state capitols and cities which accounted for his zigzag route through Indiana, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The trip took two weeks instead of two or three days. It turned out to be a major ordeal but nothing happened to arouse apprehension for Lincoln's life until the party reached Philadelphia ten days after the departure from Springfield, the same day he left Trenton, February 21.

President S. M. Felton of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Co. had summoned to Phila-

delphia on January 30, Allan Pinkerton, a well-known detective of Chicago, to assist in safe-guarding the railroad against threatened injury in Maryland where the slave issue had raised menacing hostilities. One of the men Mr. Pinkerton placed along the line learned the details of the proposed murder of Mr. Lincoln while en route through Baltimore. When Mr. Lincoln arrived at Philadelphia upon the evening of February 21, Mr. Lincoln was told of the plot. A similar warning was brought by Mr. Frederick Seward from his father in Washington. It was difficult to convince Mr. Lincoln that the danger was real. He insisted upon proceeding with his entourage to Harrisburg at once after the ceremony of raising the flag upon Independence Hall early the following morning.

At the conclusion of the reception at the State Capitol a consultation was held at the hotel where Mr. Pinkerton urged his story upon all of Lincoln's aides traveling with him. Also present were G. C. Franciscus, General Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., and Henry Sanford of the Adams Express Co. These officials finally induced Mr. Lincoln and his advisers to abandon the North Central Railroad train and to return to Philadelphia. Governor Curtin called at the hotel in a carriage, ostensibly to carry Mr. Lincoln to his residence. The only member of his traveling party who entered the carriage was Col. Ward H. Lamont. Unobserved, the President-elect boarded a special train which was hurried eastward. At Harrisburg, two officials and an employe of the American Telegraph Co. drove two miles out of the city and grounded the wires of the Northern Central line. No dispatches went out of Harrisburg that night.

Mr. Lincoln's "special" reached West

Philadelphia late in the evening, but too soon for close connection with the train for Washington. The closed carriage containing Mr. Lincoln, Col. Lamont, Allan Pinkerton and General Superintendent H. F. Kenny of the P. W. and B. Railroad, the latter on the box with the driver, proceeded slowly down Market Street, up Nineteenth Street to Vine Street, and thence down Seventeenth Street to the P. W. and B. Depot. Chairs in the Chair Car had been arranged for by "Mr. Warne," one of Pinkerton's agents. It was represented to the conductor that one of the passengers was an "invalid gentleman" who must be admitted at the rear of the coach, and have a real chair. Two officials of the Company remained on guard all night. So carefully were the plans consummated that none of the train employees of either road was aware that Mr. Lincoln was aboard. Col. Thomas A. Scott, then Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, waiting anxiously through the night at Harrisburg, was rejoiced to receive soon after six A. M. upon the 23rd, a dispatch from Washington assuring him of the safe arrival of the President-elect.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR NETS PROFIT TO SOCIETY OF NEAR \$1000

Despite what started out to be disastrous weather on the day of the Candlelight Tour, Saturday, October 19, the Society is happy to report a net gain of almost \$1000, just a little less than the receipts of the tour held in 1966.

Besides this financial success, the tour scored other significant gains. It was observed that more people attended from outside the Borough, many coming from Burlington, Salem and Gloucester counties.

The theme of the tour, "The Architecture of Herbert R. Leicht," was largely responsible for the excellent attendance despite the wet weather. For this

interesting idea we all owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Martha Goettelmann, our past president, who had the inspiration shortly after Herb died in April, 1967.

Under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Helen Kulp, committee members turned in a superhuman job. Mrs. Marjorie Richardson and other woman's committee members set up a "Herb Leicht Room" on the second floor of Greenfield Hall with a selection of memorabilia and furnishings owned, made or given by Herb which projected a living picture of this man's many talents and his superb taste.

(Continued from page one)

Thursday, December 18th the next, be set apart to be observed by all inhabitants throughout the United States for a general Thanksgiving to Almighty God . . ."

The Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Congress in York, November 15, 1777, with the title "United States of America" being used for the first time to name the new nation.

Mr. Simmons was appointed Curator of the Society, August, 1966, and has accomplished one of the most dramatic, creative programs ever devised for an Historical Society of that size.

A native of Hartford, Connecticut, Mr. Simmons was graduated from Yale University with a B. A. degree, and attended the Yale School of Architecture. After many years in the antique and art fields, doing shows in New York City, Washington, Chicago, Baltimore, Wilmington, Boston and Philadelphia, he became in 1965 a fellow of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum program in Early American Culture.

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

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4

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Historical Society Bulletin

Send all editorial contributions to:

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